

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-11 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: There is no teaching or suggestion in the prior art of the claimed combination having a continuous band (ii) curved in a transverse direction at a non-infinite crowning radius of curvature R_{crown} and is provided with an internal residual stress distribution defining a curling radius of curvature R_{curl} at which a continuous band (li) would be curved in its longitudinal direction when cut, whereby during operation the continuous band (ii) can be bent in its longitudinal direction at a minimum radius of curvature R_{min} and whereby a ratio between the curling radius and the minimum radius $R_{\text{curl}}/R_{\text{min}}$ defines a pre-bending factor f_{PB} , characterised in that, the pre-bending factor f_{PB} satisfies the equation:

$$f_{\text{PB}} = (\delta_i + \delta_o) / \delta_o \text{ wherein:}$$

- δ_i is the largest perpendicular distance in the radial direction between a neutral line NL in the cross section of the continuous band (ii) where the stress due to pure longitudinal bending would be zero and the radially inner most surface (12) of the band (li) and
- δ_o is the largest perpendicular distance in the radial direction between the said neutral line NL and the radially outer most surface (13) of the band (ii).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vicky A. Johnson whose telephone number is (571) 272-7106. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:00a-3:30p).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Ridley can be reached on (571) 272-6917. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Vicky A. Johnson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3682